

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 CANCELED

Claim 2 [currently amended] The device according to claim +15, wherein the interface element has electrodes for supplying the microchip with electrical energy for generating a potential required for the microfluid movement of the substances on the microchip.

Claim 3 [currently amended] The device according to claim +15, wherein the interface element has channels for supplying the microchip with mechanical energy for generating a potential required for the microfluid movement of the substances on the microchip.

Claim 4 [currently amended] The device according to claim +15, wherein the interface element has channels for supplying the microchip with thermal energy for generating a potential required for the microfluid movement of the substances on the microchip.

Claim 5 [original] The device according to claim 2, wherein the interface element has channels for supplying the microchip with thermal energy for generating a potential required for the microfluid movement of the substances on the microchip

the channels are arranged for supplying the microchip with mechanical energy for feeding a pressurized fluid.

Claim 6 [currently amended] The device according to claim +15, wherein the device is arranged for analyzing or synthesizing substances supplying the microchip with at least some of the necessary substances for processing or analysis, wherein the interface element has channels for supplying the microchip with these substances.

Claim 7 [original] The device according to claim 6, further including seals at the ends of the channels of the interface element for preventing the substances from exiting.

Claim 8 [currently amended] The device according to claim 154, wherein the interface element includes an electrically insulating substrate in which the electrodes and channels are embedded.

Claim 9 [original] The device according to claim 8, wherein the substrate is a ceramic.

Claim 10 [original] The device according to claim 8, wherein the substrate is a polymer.

Claim 11 [currently amended] The device according to claim 15, wherein the interface element and the supply unit are arranged and constructed so the interface is releasably attached to the supply unit.

Claim 12 [original] The device according to claim 11, wherein the interface element includes a bayonet lock for releasably attaching the interface unit to the supply unit.

Claim 13 [currently amended] The device according to claim 154, wherein the interface element and the supply unit respectively include a first coding element for identifying the interface element, a second coding element on at least one of the supply units and the microchip, the first and second coding elements corresponding with each other and interacting with each other.

Claim 14 [currently amended] The device according to claim 154, wherein the microchip is in a first assembly, and the supply unit as well as the interface element are in a module, a second assembly, the module and second assembly being arranged and constructed so the module is releasably connected to the second assembly.

Claim 15 [currently amended] A device for operating a microchip with a microfluid structure for chemical, physical, and/or biological processing, the microchip including supply elements corresponding with the microfluid structure, comprising

a supply unit for providing a potential for moving substances corresponding to the microfluid structure, the supply unit having supply lines for enabling the potential to be coupled to the microchip, the supply lines being arranged to interact with the supply elements which correspond to the microfluid structure,

an interface element, and

a holder for carrying the interface element,

the interface element including a structure for connecting the supply lines with at least one of the supply elements that correspond to the microfluid structure,

the interface element and the holder having structures for enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder,

the interface element having exterior surfaces resistant to the substances processed by the microchip

~~The device according to claim 14, and~~ further including a magnet/Hall sensor pair, the second assembly including elements mounted on the module, and an output device responsive to a Hall sensor of the magnet/Hall sensor pair.

Claim 16 [original] The device according to claim 15, wherein the output device includes a shut-off for the device for operating the laboratory microchip.

Claim 17 [original] The device according to claim 15, wherein the output device includes a warning device.

Claim 18 [currently amended] The device according to claim ~~14~~15 wherein the cooperating structures are such that the interface element is locked in place on a securing structure of the holder in response to rotation of the interface element relative to the holder.

Claim 19 CANCELED

Claim 20 CANCELED

Claim 21 CANCELED

Claim 22 CANCELED

Claim 23 CANCELED

Claim 24 CANCELED

Claim 25 CANCELED